

THE STATE HORNET



ATHENS 2004



2004 Olympic Preview Edition
June 18 - July 18

A day-by-day schedule
of Olympic Trial events
can be seen on pages
10 & 11. ▶



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Sac State hosts second-straight Olympic Trials

HORNET STAFF

The U.S. Olympic Track and Field Trials will be held at the A.G. Spanos Sports Complex at Sacramento State on July 9-18.

The top three finishers for each event will qualify for the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens, Greece to take place on August 20-29.

Sacramento will be the first city to host back-to-back Trials in 25 years. The competition in Sacramento drew over 187,000 fans over eight days during the 2000 U.S. Olympic Trials.

The list of stars include: Five-time Olympic gold medal winner Marion Jones, women's pole vault champion Stacy Dragila, world's fastest female hurdler and winner of two gold medals in the 100-meter dash Gail Devers, three-time high hurdles world champion Allen Johnson and the two fastest 100-meter sprinters in history, Tim Montgomery Maurice Greene.

The event will span 10 days. No competition will be held on July 13-14. Ticket packages are available by calling (916) 566-6560 or at www.sacsports.com.

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SPEED FREAKS

Greene, Montgomery and Gatlin in hunt for World's Fastest Man title

ROBERT ALVIS
State Hornet

The men's 100 meter dash features arguably the top competition at the 2004 Olympic Trials.

The event features three of the sports premier athletes in Maurice Greene, Tim Montgomery and Justin Gatlin.

With a wind at his back, Greene crossed the finish line at the Home Depot Track and Field International with a time of 9.86 earlier this year. After running one of the fastest times of the year, Greene celebrated by flinging his shoes on the track and having hurdler Larry Wade run onto the track and douse the shoes with a fire extinguisher.

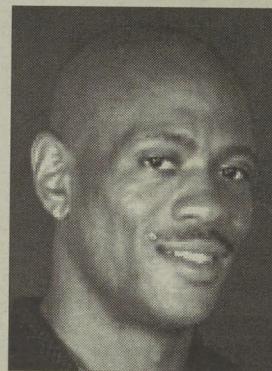
Greene later said that his feet were burning.

Greene will need his feet to stay hot all the way to Athens where he will be looking to win the 100 gold for the second time.

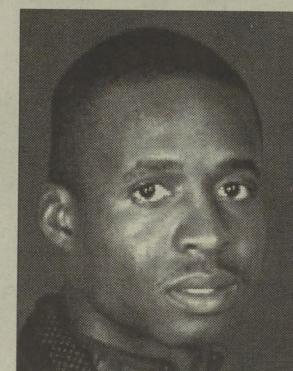
In the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Greene won the gold in the 100 and a gold in the 4x100 relay.

After a couple of years that saw a decline in production, due to injuries that included breaking his leg in a motorcycle accident, Greene has looked good coming into the trials.

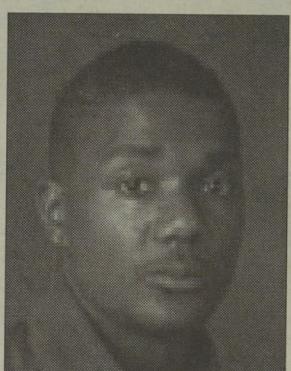
With the top two American times in 2004, and the top two wind-aided times, including a May 31 9.78 that would have tied the current world record had it not been for the wind,



Greene



Montgomery



Gatlin

Maurice Greene to capture the imagination of America again though.

He will have to outrun his sub-par 2003 season and possible suspensions and a BALCO investigation.

He will also have to outrun allegations that his title of World's Fastest Man is tainted due to possible doping.

Montgomery's first obstacle, Greene, will be a tough one to concur. While he doesn't need to beat Greene to make the Olympics, their rivalry is such that second place to Greene is a loss.

Montgomery will also need to improve on last year's performance where he finished the World Outdoor Championships in fifth place. This year, he has the fourth best time in the U.S. at 10.08, wind aided numbers not included. While that time may get him a spot on the Olympic team, he will surely need to do better in order to be a medal favorite for Athens.

After breaking the world record in 2002 in Paris with a 100: Page 14

Greene is supremely confident that the Olympic gold will be around his neck.

"I just have to go pick up a package that they said they can't mail to me because of customs and all this stuff, so I'll have to go over there and pick it up," said Greene to the Sacramento Bee after the Payton Jordan US Open. "It's a gold medal that has my name engraved on it. I'm just waiting on that time."

Greene has reason to be confident going into Athens. That is where he broke the world record in 1999 with a time of 9.79. His rival Tim Montgomery has since broken that mark.

Montgomery will have to outrun more than just archival

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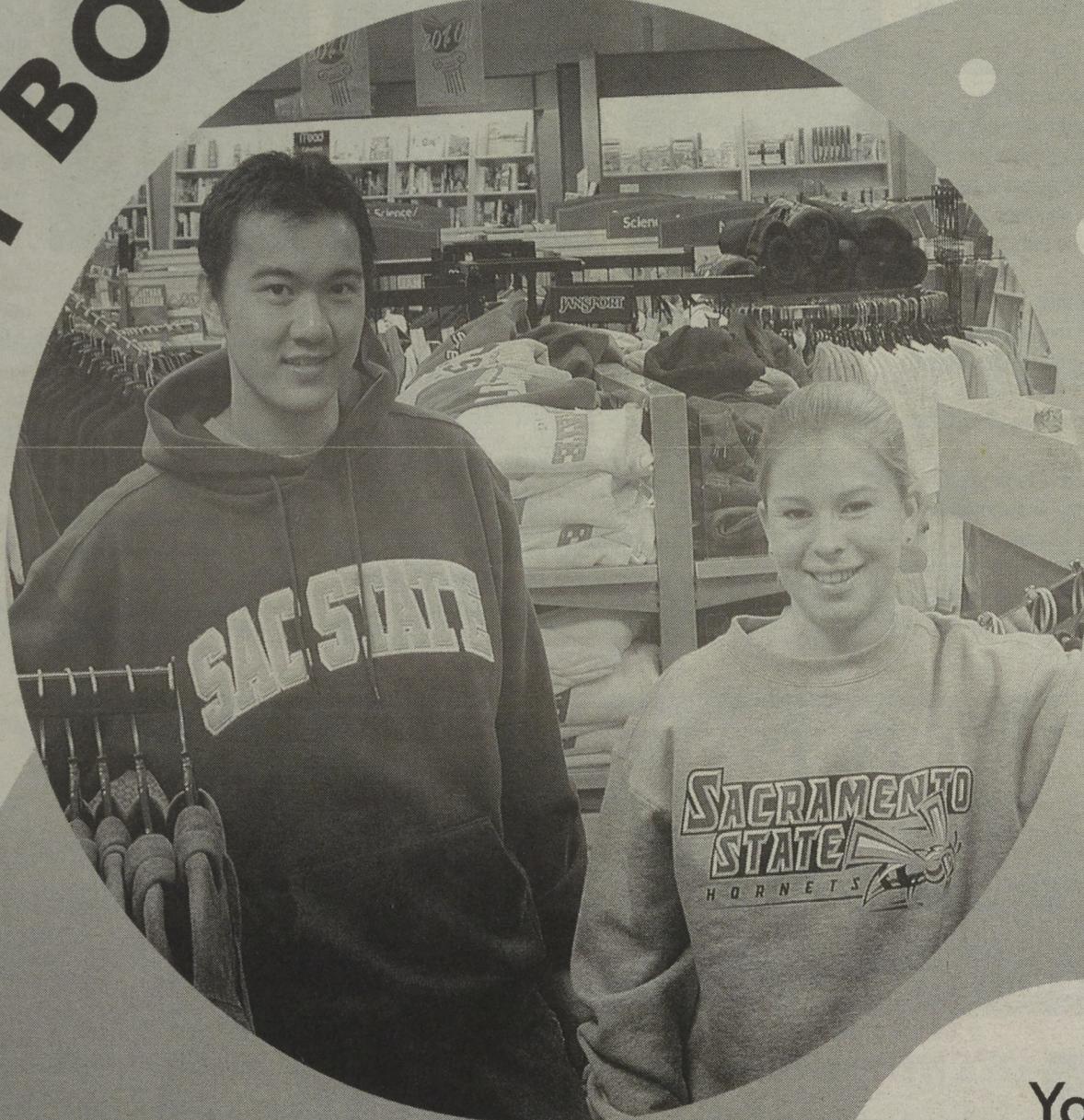
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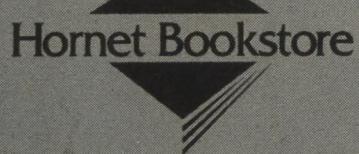
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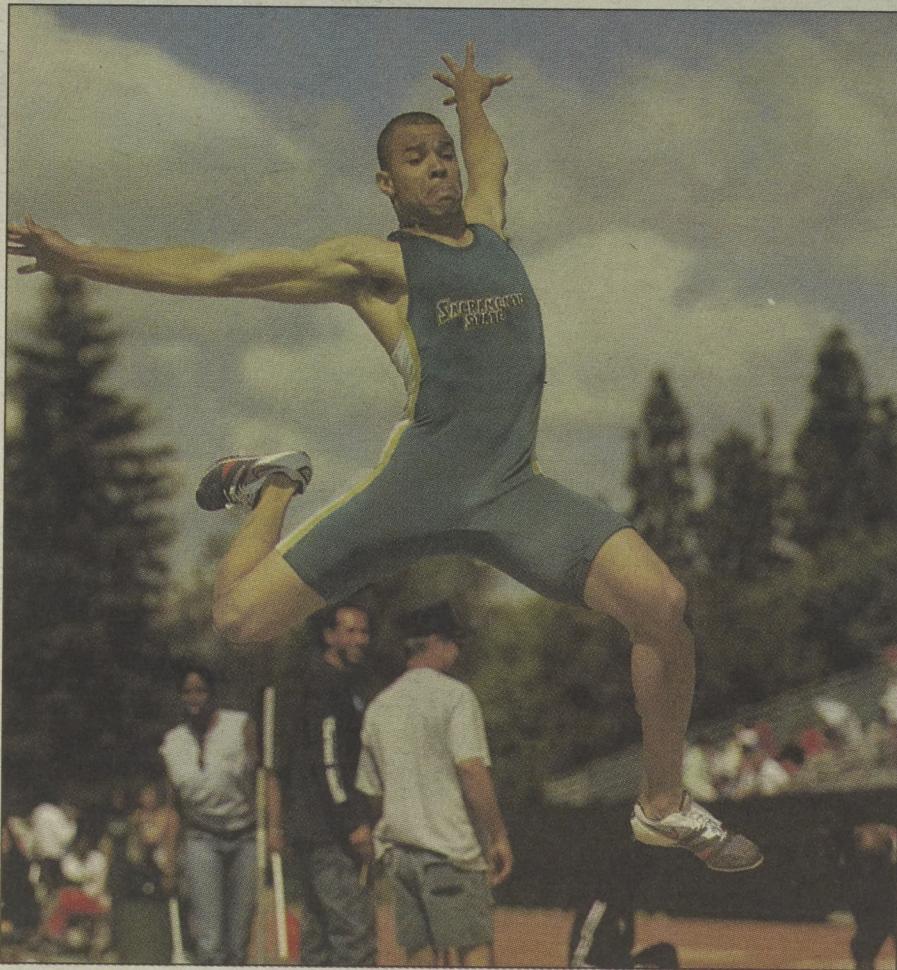


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"My Dad said I was going to break my neck. I guess that was the first time he saw my jumping ability."
— Brandon Parker, Sacramento State long jumper



Sacramento State long jumper Brandon Parker has placed first in the Big Sky Championships each of the last two years. The Stockton native dreams of an Olympic leap.

Leaping for the stars

Sacramento State athlete looks to take high-flying act to track's biggest stage

ANDRIA WENZEL
State Hornet

Brandon Parker is the face of track and field at Sacramento State.

The Stockton native has dreams of making it to the Olympic Trials one day — it's one of the reasons he chose to come to Sac State after his senior year at Lincoln High School.

"If the trials were going to be here in 2004, what better place to train," Parker said.

Parker knew he had something as early as first grade when he first competed in the long jump and won.

Parker's father knew it a few years later.

When Parker was in his Dad's kempo

kung fu class jumping head first over boxes stacked five-feet high.

"My Dad said I was going to break my neck," Parker said. "I guess that was the first time he saw my jumping ability."

They both knew it when he was high school. When he recorded four interceptions in one quarter against Franklin High School — still a state record.

"I thought I was going to the NFL," Parker said.

When he finished fifth at the state meet as a senior in the long jump he ended his day by tripping down the runway and tumbling through the pit. At first check he thought he was OK and then he saw his thumb bent in separate directions.

"On the X-ray it looked like a pencil snapped in half," Parker said. "I didn't think I'd be going down the runway again."

Flash forward four years and Parker's jumping ability has him led him to two

PARKER: Page 16

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The world looks to Olympic Games for escape from reality

In times of international conflict, the Olympics take on a much greater importance.

There's a scene in the recently released "Miracle" in which Kurt Russell, portraying legendary U.S. Hockey coach Herb Brooks, says of the upcoming match against the then Soviet Union, "This is just a Hockey game, people are making out to be something it isn't."

Patricia Clarkson, playing Brooks' wife Patty responds, "It is more than a game to a lot of people."

Sports play a more significant role than many think about. In the months following Sept. 11, 2001, sports played a vital role in America's healing process, giving us a needed distraction from the shocking images being played over and over again on cable news networks.

Sports gives people – all people, not just those in the U.S. – something to look forward to. They give us an escape. They provide a sanctuary from a sometimes difficult outside world.

That is why the upcoming Olympics in Athens, Greece, like other Olympiads contested in times of war in the past, will take on an even greater importance as the world's attention will be turned to a region of this planet currently in much turmoil and hostility.

While most of the buildup will focus on ongoing conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, once the whistle is blown, the siren sounds and gun is fired, world politics will take a back seat to the competition on the field. People around the world including Afghanistan, Iraq and the United States will momentarily forget about all that, focused on athletes donning their colors to compete against the best in the world representing their nation to the rest of the world.

This phenomenon is best exemplified by the aforementioned Miracle on Ice, which took place at the XIII Winter Olympiad in Lake Placid, NY nearly 25 years ago. The United States Hockey team, coached by Brooks, defeated the nearly unbeatable Soviet Union 4-3 after losing 10-3 just 13 days earlier in



JOHN PARKER

Sports give us an escape. They provide a sanctuary from a sometimes difficult outside world.

an exhibition at Madison Square Garden.

Smack in the middle of the Cold War, the United States defeated three dominant eastern bloc Hockey teams and beat them on their way to the gold medal. Containment policy, the Berlin Wall and a different conflict in Afghanistan all added context to the match ups, but when the players began skating they captured the attention of everyone and ultimately provided a release.

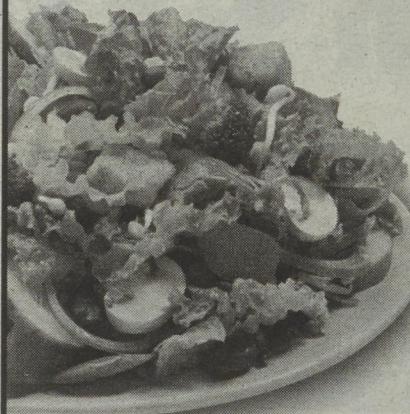
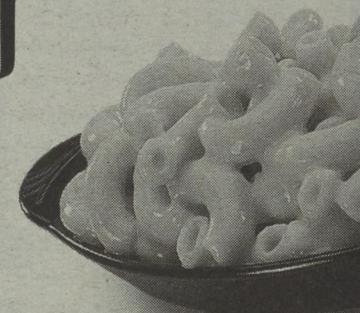
On a few occasions, however, world politics have upstaged and stained the games. No one who was alive can forget the horrifying images of Palestinian terrorists taking members of the Israeli team hostage and slaughtering them in the Olympic Village in Munich in 1976. Even then IOC Commissioner Avery Brundage decreed, "The games must go on," underscoring the games as part of the healing process.

In the mid-1980's the games were marred by boycotts from eastern-bloc nations in response to political events of the times.

The Olympics are at their best however, when all nations send their very best. When all other concerns are stripped away, and all we have to focus on is the competition.

So, when the athletes arrive in Athens this September in pursuit of their Olympic dreams, they will carry with them millions of people around the world caught up in a patriotic euphoria.

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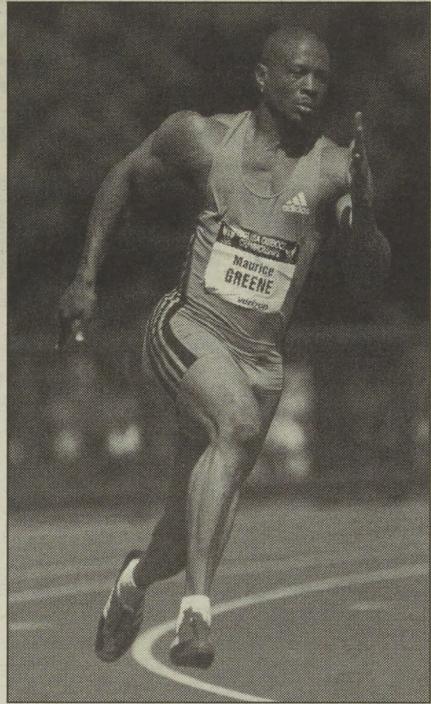
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U.S. men look to bounce back after poor showing in Sydney



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U.S. sprinter maurice Greene won two gold medals in the 2000 Olympic Games.

JOHN PARKER
State Hornet

Though their overall medal count has been declining since **Carl Lewis'** glory days in the late 1980s, United States Men's Track and Field will look to field its most competitive team in recent memory for the 2004 Olympics in Athens, Greece.

Most recently in Sydney, the American men won six gold medals, their fewest in nearly a quarter century, and 13 overall medals, their fewest ever.

However, US Men's Track and Field returns five gold medalists from the 2000 games in Sydney vying to get back and three Olympians from both 1996 and 2000 including sprinter **Maurice Greene**, to complement a young and exciting squad of newcomers, led by distance runner **Alan Webb**.

Hampered because of a looming investigation into steroid use, the U.S. men still look just as strong as ever posting the two fastest humans on earth and various US

record holders.

Greene will be back to defend his gold medals in the 2000 Sydney Olympics in the 100 meters and the 4x100 meter relay.

Electrifying both because of his raw speed and side-splitting sense of humor, after winning the 100m at the Home Depot Invitational in May.

No stranger to Athens, Greene set the world record in the 100m at a meet in June of 1999 with a time of 9.79 seconds, giving him the distinction of world's fastest human going into the 2000 Olympiad where he did not disappoint.

Greene won the US Olympic Trials in Sacramento and ran a time of 9.87s in Sydney and won the gold medal, his first. Greene tasted gold again days later, anchoring the US men's 4x100m relay team to victory.

Even outside of Olympic competition, Greene is easily one of the US' most dominant sprinters of the last decade. Greene

MEN: Page A15

WORLD RECORD HOLDERS

100 meters		
Tim Montgomery	USA	9.78
200 meters		
Michael Johnson	USA	19.32
400 meters		
Michael Johnson	USA	43.18
800 meters		
Wilson Kipketer	Denmark	1:41.11
1500 meters		
Sebastian Coe	G. Britain	3:32.42
1 mile		
H. El Gueroj	Morocco	3:49.92
110 hurdles		
Colin Jackson	G. Britain	12.91
Long Jump		
Mike Powell	USA	28.4

U.S. MEDAL COUNTS

Year	G	S	B
2000 - Sidney	6	4	3
1996 - Atlanta	10	4	2
1992 - Barcelona	8	5	7
1988 - Seoul	7	5	5
1984 - Los Angeles	9	8	7
1980 - Moscow (U.S. boycott)			
1976 - Montreal	6	6	7
1972 - Munich	6	7	6
1968 - Mexico City	12	5	7

Results for United States' men's team in track and field events

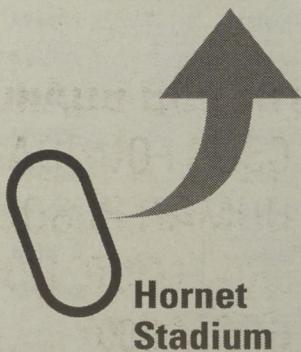
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U.S. OLYMPIC

Team Trials Schedule

Sacramento State University - July 9 - 18, 2004

TRACK & FIELD

DAY 1 FRIDAY - JULY 9

Time	Event	M/W	Rounds	#Needed
3:30 PM	Pole Vault	Men	Qualifying round	24 (2 flights)
4:30PM	100m Hurdles	Women	Heptathlon/Final	18 (3 sections)
5:25PM	High Jump	Women	Heptathlon/Final	18 (2 groups)
5:30PM	100m	Women	Qualifying round	32 (4 heats)
6:00PM	400m Hurdles	Women	Quarterfinal round	28 (4 heats)
6:10PM	Shot Put	Men	Qualifying round	24 (2 flights)
6:25PM	Triple Jump	Women	Qualifying round	24 (2 flights)
6:30PM	400m Hurdles	Men	Quarterfinal round	28 (4 heats)
7:00PM	800m	Women	Quarterfinal round	30 (3 heats)
7:15 PM	Javelin Throw	Women	Qualifying round	24 (2 flights)
7:20PM	800m	Men	Quarterfinal round	30 (3 heats)
7:40PM	Shot Put	Women	Heptathlon/Final	18 (2 groups)
7:45PM	5000m	Women	Semi-final round	24 (2 flights)
8:00PM	Long Jump	Men	Qualifying round	24 (2 flights)
8:30 PM	100m	Women	Quarterfinal round	24 (3 heats)
9:05 PM	200m	Women	Heptathlon/Final	18 (3 sections)
9:30 PM	10,000m	Men	Final	24

DAY 2 SATURDAY - JULY 10

Time	Event	M/W	Rounds	#Needed
10:00AM	Hammer Throw	Men	Qualifying round	24 (2 flights)
1:10PM	Long Jump	Women	Heptathlon/Final	18 (2 groups)
2:20PM	Javelin Throw	Women	Heptathlon/Final	18 (2 groups)
3:00PM	100m	Men	Qualifying round	32 (4 heats)
3:30 PM	100m	Women	Semi-final round	16 (2 heats)
4:20PM	400m Hurdles	Men	Semi-final round	16 (2 heats)
4:30PM	Shot Put	Men	Final	12
4:55 PM	800m	Women	Heptathlon/Final	18 (2 sections)
5:00PM	High Jump	Women	Qualifying round	24 (2 flights)
5:10PM	Discus Throw	Women	Qualifying round	24 (2 flights)
5:22PM	100m	Men	Quarter-final round	24 (3 heats)
5:50PM	100m	Women	Final	8
6:10PM	800m	Men	Semi-final round	16 (2 heats)
6:30PM	400m Hurdles	Women	Semi-final round	16 (2 heats)
6:50PM	800m	Women	Semi-final round	16 (2 heats)

DAY 3 SUNDAY - JULY 11

Time	Event	M/W	Rounds	#Needed
1:15PM	Pole Vault	Men	Final	12
1:30PM	Triple Jump	Women	Final	12
2:30PM	100m	Men	Semi-final round	16 (2 heats)
2:45PM	Javelin Throw	Women	Final	12
3:00PM	400m	Men	Quarter-final round	28 (4 heats)
3:30PM	Long Jump	Men	Final	12
4:14PM	400m Hurdles	Women	Final	8
4:30PM	400m Hurdles	Men	Final	8
4:48PM	100m	Men	Final	8

DAY 4 MONDAY - JULY 12

Time	Event	M/W	Rounds	#Needed
2:30 PM	Hammer Throw	Women	Qualifying round	24 (2 flights)
5:30 PM	Hammer Throw	Men	Final	12
7:00PM	800m	Women	Final	8
7:10PM	800m	Men	Final	8
7:15PM	High Jump	Women	Final	12
7:20PM	400m	Women	Quarter-final round	28 (4 heats)
7:30 PM	Discus Throw	Women	Final	12
7:55 PM	3000m Steeplechase	Men	Semi-final round	24 (2 heats)
8:25PM	400m	Men	Semi-final round	16 (2 heats)
8:40 PM	Long Jump	Women	Qualifying round	24 (2 flights)
8:45 PM	5000m	Men	Semi-final round	24 (2 heats)
9:25PM	5000m	Women	Final	16

DAY 5 TUESDAY - JULY 13
5 REST DAY
DAY 6 WEDNESDAY - JULY 14
6 REST DAY
DAY 7 THURSDAY - JULY 15

Time	Event	M/W	Rounds	#Needed
2:00PM	Javelin Throw	Men	Qualifying round	24 (2 flights)
3:45PM	Triple Jump	Men	Qualifying round	24 (2 flights)
5:35PM	Shot Put	Women	Qualifying round	24 (2 flights)
5:45PM	Long Jump	Women	Final	12
6:05PM	High Jump	Men	Qualifying round	24 (2 flights)
7:15PM	Special Olympics 100m Women		Final	8
7:25PM	Special Olympics 100m Men		Final	8
7:35PM	400m	Women	Semi-final round	16 (2 heats)
7:45PM	Hammer Throw	Women	Final	12
7:50PM	400m	Men	Final	8
8:00PM	1500m	Men	Quarterfinal round	30 (3 heats)
8:30PM	3000m Steeplechase Women		Final	12
8:45PM	3000m Steeplechase Men		Final	14

DAY 8 FRIDAY - JULY 16

Time	Event	M/W	Rounds	#Needed
2:00PM	100m	Men	Decathlon/Final	18 (3 sections)
2:50PM	Long Jump	Men	Decathlon/Final	18 (2 groups)
4:00PM	Shot Put	Men	Decathlon/Final	18 (2 groups)
5:00PM	Discus Throw	Men	Qualifying round	24 (2 flights)
5:15PM	High Jump	Men	Decathlon/Final	18 (2 groups)
6:00PM	200m	Men	Qualifying round	30 (5 heats)
6:40PM	200m	Women	Quarterfinal round	30 (5 heats)
7:00PM	Pole Vault	Women	Qualifying round	24 (2 flights)
7:20PM	Mixed Class 400m	Men	Final	8
7:40PM	1500m	Men	Semi-final round	24 (2 heats)
7:45PM	Shot Put	Women	Final	12
8:00PM	1500m	Women	Semi-final round	30 (3 heats)
8:35PM	400m	Men	Decathlon/Final	18 (3 sections)
8:55PM	5000m	Men	Final	16
9:20PM	10,000m	Women	Final	24

DAY 9 SATURDAY - JULY 17

Time	Event	M/W	Rounds	#Needed
7:00AM	20k Race Walk	Men	Final	15
10:00AM	110m Hurdles	Men	Decathlon/Final	18 (3 sections)
10:50AM	Discus Throw	Men	Decathlon/Final	18 (2 groups)
12:00PM	200m	Men	Quarterfinal round	24 (4 heats)
12:35PM	110m Hurdles	Men	Qualifying round	32 (4 heats)
1:00 PM	Javelin Throw	Men	Final	12
1:05 PM	Pole Vault	Men	Decathlon/Final	18 (2 groups)
1:10PM	100m Hurdles	Women	Quarterfinal round	32 (4 heats)
1:30PM	Triple Jump	Men	Final	12
2:02PM	200m	Women	Semi-final round	16 (2 heats)
2:17PM	200m	Men	Semi-final round	16 (2 heats)
2:30PM	110m Hurdles	Men	Quarter-final round	24 (3 heats)
2:52PM	400m	Women	Final	8

DAY 10 SUNDAY - JULY 18

Time	Event	M/W	Rounds	#Needed
7:00AM	20k Race Walk	Women	Final	15
2:30PM	Pole Vault	Women	Final	12
3:00PM	110m Hurdles	Men	Semi-final round	16 (2 heats)
3:05PM	Discus Throw	Men	Final	12
3:10PM	High Jump	Men	Final	12
3:15PM	100m Hurdles	Women	Semi-final round	16 (2 heats)
3:40PM	Wheel Chair 1500m	Men	Final	8
3:55PM	Wheel Chair 800m	Women	Final	8
4:30PM	1500m	Men	Final	12
5:00PM	1500m	Women	Final	15
5:13PM	110m Hurdles	Men	Final	8
5:25PM	100m Hurdles	Women	Final	8
5:38PM	200m	Men	Final	8
5:50PM	200m	Women	Final	8

Event Notes:

*Schedule subject to change according to final entry count and/or TV.

*All times are Pacific Daylight times.

Day 7- WOMENS 3000m Steeplechase qualifying is 12 best 2004 marks in ranked order who have also met the 10:00 minimum standard mark.

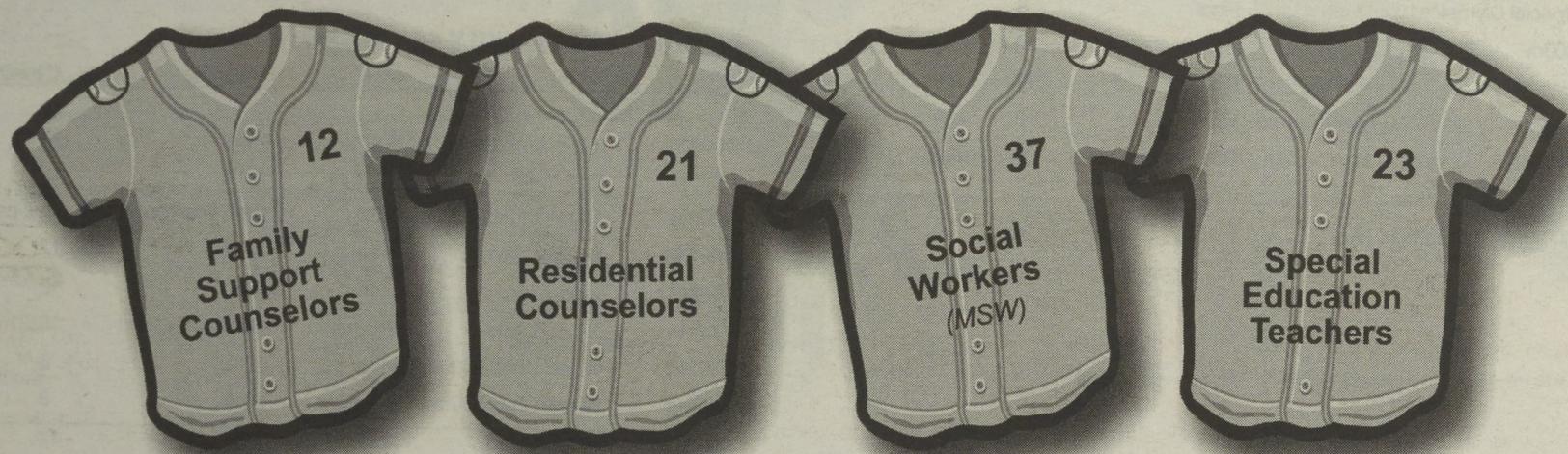
Day 10- 1500m & 800m Wheel Chair Events are Olympic Qualifying Events.

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Who will fill shoes of suspended star(s)?

ROBERT ALVIS
State Hornet

The story going into the U.S. Track and Field Trials may not be who is going to Athens, but who will be staying home.

The U.S. has been racked by a doping scandal that has landed some high profile athletes in hot water.

Kelli White became the first athlete suspended based on information from the BALCO case and accepted a two year ban from the sport. She tested positive for the stimulant modafinil after last year's U.S. nationals and world championships.

White won the 100 and 200 in both of those competitions, but has since been stripped of all her titles won over the last four years.

The ban will keep her from competing in Athens, but she has said she plans to come back after her ban is up.

Another star that could be suspended because of the BALCO scandal is middle distance runner **Regina Jacobs** who will have a hearing in late June which will decide her Olympic fate. Jacobs is an 11-time U.S. 1500 champion and would be looking to qualify for her fifth Olympic team.

A two-year ban, like the one White received, would in essence end the career of Jacobs who would be 42 when her ban was up.

She was set to compete in the 1500 for the Sydney Olympics, but was unable to run due to illness.

Jacobs tested positive for the designer steroid THG, but remains steadfast that she never knowingly took any banned substance.

America will now have to take a look at those who finished second to White and Jacobs to fill in where they left off.

Torri Edwards finished second to White in both the 100 and 200 in last year's U.S. nationals. Since White has been stripped of her titles, that means Edwards is now the U.S. champion in both events. Edwards also became the world champion in the 100 and silver medallist in the 200.

Edwards is a threat to medal in both events in Athens. She is coming off a strong 2003 season where she set personal bests in both the 100 and 200 and holds the third-best American time in the 100 this year.

Another hopeful will be middle distance runner **Suzy Favor Hamilton** who has finished runner-up to Jacobs eight times,

WORLD RECORD HOLDERS

100 meters		
Flo. Griffith-Joyner	USA	10.49
200 meters		
Flo. Griffith-Joyner	USA	21.34
400 meters		
Marita Koch	EGer.	47.60
800 meters		
J. Kratochvilova	Czech.	1:53.28
1500 meters		
Yunxia Qu	China	3:50.46
1 mile		
S. Masterkova	Russia	4:12.56
110 hurdles		
Gail Devers	G. Britain	12.21
Long Jump		
G. Chistyakova	Russia	24-8 1/4

U.S. MEDAL COUNTS

Year	G	S	B
2000 – Sidney	4	0	3
1996 – Atlanta	3	1	3
1992 – Barcelona	4	3	3
1988 – Seoul	6	2	1
1984 – Los Angeles	7	7	2
1980 – Moscow (U.S. boycott)			
1976 – Montreal	0	2	1
1972 – Munich	0	1	2
1968 – Mexico City	3	1	0

Results for United States' women's team in track and field events

including last year's U.S. track and field finals.

Hamilton will be looking to make her fourth Olympic team. Hamilton, who was injured, collapsed on her final lap in Sydney before picking herself up off the track and finishing the race.

Also boosting the Olympic squad will be the return of **Marion Jones**.

Jones was out of track last year while she gave birth to her son, fathered by track star Tim Montgomery.

Jones captured the track scene in 2000 when she won five Olympic medals. She won the gold in the 100, 200, and 4x400. She received bronze in the long jump and 4x100.

That year she was named athlete of the year by the associated press, ESPN, Reuters and the IAAF.

Although her name has been brought up in the BALCO investigations, Jones says she will compete in Athens this year. She has said that she will sue the U.S. Anti-Doping

WOMEN: Page A17

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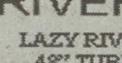
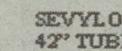
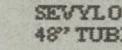
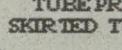
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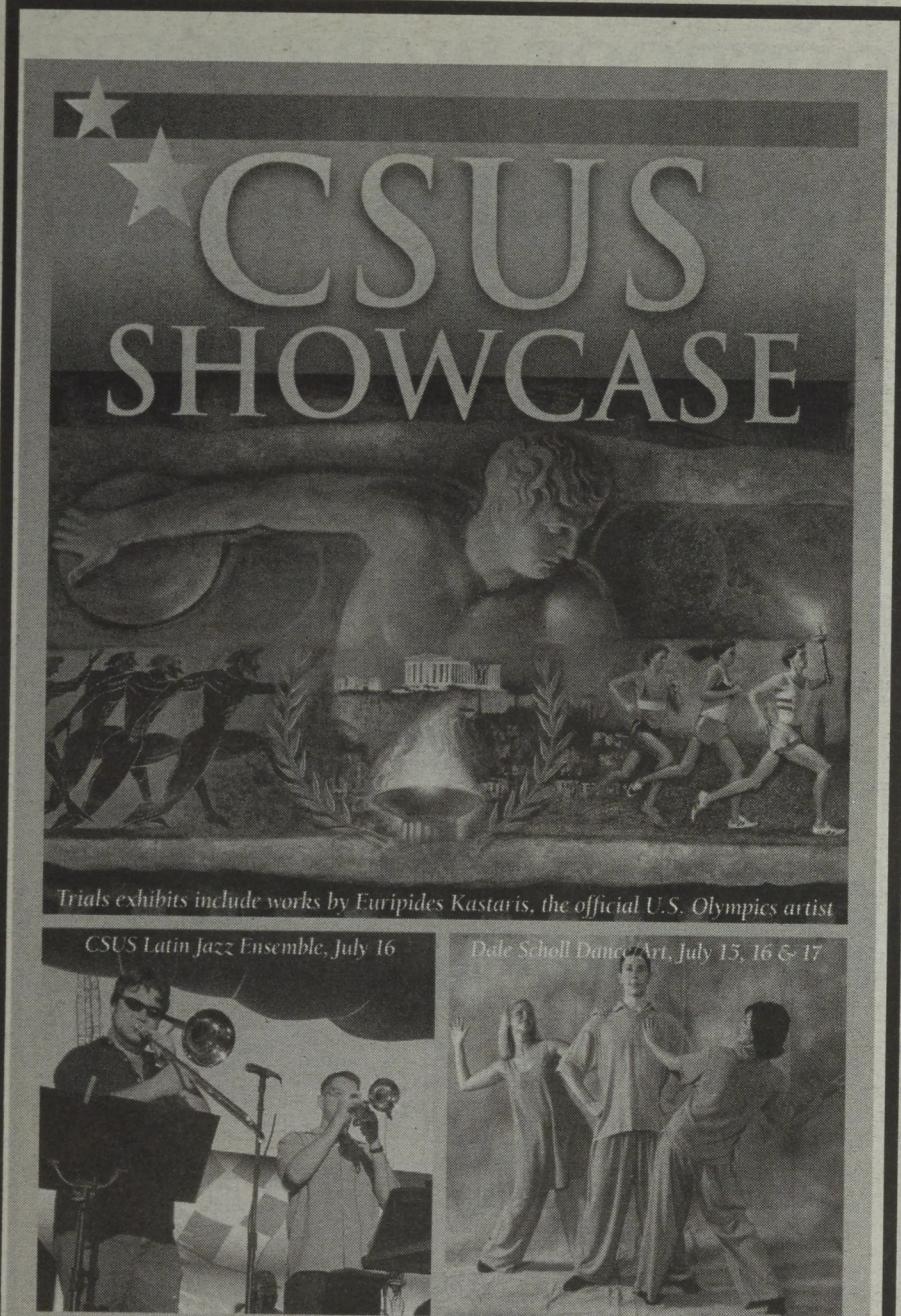


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Steroid investigation, security top concerns leading up to Athens

JOHN PARKER
State Hornet

More than 4,000 years after olive wreaths were bestowed upon the winners of the first Olympics in a valley called Olympia, the Games return home to Greece this summer.

Athletes representing almost 200 countries will descend on Athens for 16 days beginning August 13 to compete in 296 different events, totaling 888 medals to be handed out.

The United States will send 250 of its top amateur and pro athletes to Athens to defend their all-time Summer Olympic medal count lead which totals 2051, including 852 gold.

America will be led once again by its track and field contingent, although mired in the ongoing investigation into the BALCO laboratories in the Bay Area, has amassed 688 total medals in the modern era.

At the heart of the controversy, so reports the Associated Press, are U.S. sprinters Marion Jones and her boyfriend, sprinter Tim Montgomery the world record holder in the 100 meter dash.

According to the article, published April 25, 2004, the owner/operator of the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative Victor Conte claims he provided the then-undetectable

steroid THG in 2002, supposedly in exchange for endorsements from the athletes.

As of press time, neither Montgomery nor Jones had tested positive nor been held out of competition by the United States Anti-Doping Agency, the office responsible for testing team USA athletes for steroids.

Despite the controversy, the U.S. still looks to field a strong team in a category it usually dominates. Maurice Green will attempt to defend his 100 dash gold medal from the Sydney games in 2000 as well as his gold in the 4x100 relay.

Security concerns are reportedly keeping many NBA stars away from Athens this summer. So far veteran forward Karl Malone, 2004 most valuable player Kevin Garnett and superstar guard Kobe Bryant have all declined their invitations to play.

In fact, only two NBA players, the Philadelphia 76ers' point guard Allen Iverson and the San Antonio Spurs' power forward Tim Duncan, remain from the original squad of nine selected last year by Detroit Pistons' and Team USA coach Larry Brown.

The 2004 Olympic Games will air in America on NBC beginning August 13 and continue live through the closing ceremony August 29, totaling an estimated 1200 hours of coverage.

100: Gatlin looks to make mark in his first Olympics

Continued from A3

time of 9.78, Montgomery was awarded the Jesse Owens award for the Best Male Track Athlete of the Year.

Since then, he has had a child with girlfriend and fellow track star Marion Jones.

Unfortunately for Montgomery, evidence has been uncovered that has linked him to BALCO, which has been under fire for providing athletes THG that was undetectable by drug tests up until last year.

Montgomery has said that he did not use THG, but in recent events was one of four athletes who received letters from the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency stating that they might be suspended due to documentary evidence gathered from BALCO.

Gatlin, 22, will be looking to make his first Olympics in the 100 and 200.

Gatlin won back-to-back 100 and 200 NCAA titles in 2001 and 2002 while attending the University of Tennessee and looks primed to be the next big thing in American sprinting.

He had captured six NCAA titles by the end of his sophomore year.

Gatlin has been gaining valuable experience over the last year and a half going up against Maurice Greene on several occasions.

At the Payton Jordan U.S. Open earlier this year, Gatlin came second to Greene with a wind-aided 9.91 performance.

On June 16, Gatlin will go up against Greene, Tim Montgomery and John Capel, and former indoor champion Shawn Crawford at the Prefontaine and should give him a good idea of where he stands among America's best.

Men: Drummond ready to compete with young bucks

Continued from A9

won gold medals in the world championships in the 100m in 1997 and 2001. Greene's banner year, however, was in 1999 when he won gold in three events: The 100m, setting the world record, the 200m and the 4x100.

A teammate of Greene's on the men's 4x100m relay team is **Tim Montgomery**.

Recently it was alleged that Victor Conte, the operator of the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative supplied the designer steroid THG to Montgomery and his girlfriend, US women's sprinter Marion Jones in 2001, according a San Jose Mercury News report.

As of press time however, the United States Anti-Doping Agency, the office in charge of testing US athletes for performance enhancing drugs, has taken no action against Montgomery or Jones.

The stigma still surrounds the couple however, as Yahoo! sports.com reported on May 28 that neither Montgomery nor Jones would be invited to the Golden League Bislett Games in June in Norway.

THG or no THG, Montgomery holds

"Jon Drummond made a name for himself, and then took a back seat so his fellow teammates could skyrocket to the moon."

— **Maurice Greene** and **Ato Bolden**

the title of world's fastest human, breaking Greene's 100m record by one one-hundredth of a second in Paris on Sept. 14, 2002 with a time of 9.78s.

Montgomery will also look to repeat with a gold medal along with Greene on the US men's 4x100m relay team and to get his first taste of Olympic 100m running after finishing sixth in the US Team Trials in 2000.

35 year-old **Jon Drummond** joined Greene and Montgomery on the gold medal winning 4x100m relay team in Sydney in 2000 as the all-important starter. This summer could potentially be his third

Olympiad, having competed in both Atlanta in 1996 and Sydney in 2000.

Drummond is looked up to by many on the US men's track team as a leader and according to teammates is always willing to lend advice to fellow runners.

"Jon Drummond made a name for himself, and then took a back seat so his fellow teammates could skyrocket to the moon," training partners Greene and **Ato Bolden** are quoted as saying on the Team USA's Web site, usoc.org.

Drummond, a native of Philadelphia, almost didn't get out of the blocks in his life however. Early in his childhood doctors told his parents that he would be mentally retarded and unable to walk due to being born with Spina Bifida, which is the failure of the spine to completely form in a fetus. Though it is mild, SB continues to affect Drummond as he has fought Spinal Meningitis three times since 1986.

Allen Johnson, the 33 year-old hurdler from Wash. D.C. will look to make his third Olympics and reclaim his 1996 gold medal form in the 110m hurdles.

A hamstring injury right before the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney held him

to a fourth place finish.

One of the most accomplished athletes on the US team, Johnson holds the American record in the 110h with a time of 12.92s which he set at the US trials and went on to win gold in Atlanta that year with a time of 12.95s.

Johnson has won four world championships in the 110h, coming in 1995, 1997, 2001 and 2003.

Most recently as of press time, Johnson took first in the 110h at the Payton Jordan US Open in Palo Alto on May 31 with a time of 13.12s.

Stepping into American track and field legend **Michael Johnson**'s Olympic shoes in the 400m in 2004 will be **Alvin Harrison**, who earned a silver medal in the 400 finishing behind Johnson in Sydney.

Already a two time Olympian, Harrison has won gold in the 4x400m relay both in Atlanta and Sydney and will look to three-peat this summer in Athens. In the Sydney performance, Harrison had the opportunity to race on the same relay team as his twin brother **Calvin**, also a 400m runner looking to book a ticket to Greece.

MEN: Page A19

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Parker: Sac State athletes may runs at Olympic glory

Continued from A5

straight Big Sky Championships in 2003 and 2004 as well as a personal best jump of 25-9.

He was also the second track and field athlete in Sac State history in to make it to the NCAA championships when he qualified last year finishing 19th.

Parker – who has battled chronic lower back pain for the last few years – failed to qualify for the NCAA Outdoor Championships this year after a ninth place finish at the Western Regionals, but retained his Big Sky title with a jump of 24-4 1/2. His first place finish in the long jump and fourth place finish in the 100 at the Big Sky Championships helped lead Sac State's men's track and field to a program-best third place finish at the championships.

Parker may have not qualified for the NCAA Championships this year and he may not have produced his best jumps, but his training and speed down the runway have been tinkered with and improved this season.

"This is the first time that he is not only training hard, but making sacrifices to enhance his training," Brandon's father, Bankii Parker said. "Even last year he didn't have the work ethic he has now. This year he is really making sacrifices."

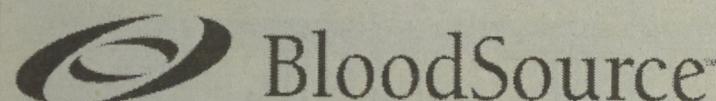
Sacrifices that will hopefully one day lead him to the Olympics.

"I'm going to start training like crazy if I don't make (the 2004 Olympic trials). I guarantee I'll be there in 2008. Not being there is not an option."

Other Sac State track news ...

This year the Hornets doubled their number of athletes to appear in the NCAA Outdoor Championships with senior Robert Linkul and junior Andre Wright both qualifying. Linkul finished second in the Western Regionals with a hammer throw of 204-06.

Wright placed sixth at the Regionals in the 110 hurdles, but was moved into the Championships after third place finisher, UCLA's Jonathan Williams opted not to compete in the event.



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Women: Local Dragila looks to build on record performance

Continued from A13

Agency if she is kept out of the Olympics without a positive drug test.

Recently the agency sent out letters to four U.S. track runners including Jones' boyfriend and training partner Montgomery informing them that they may be suspended for the games, but Jones was not a recipient of a letter.

Jones is a threat to medal in all five events again this year, barring injury or suspension.

The familiar name of **Gail Devers** will also be headlining the field at this year's trials. Devers is no stranger to Olympic gold having three times captured first in the Olympic Games, twice in the 100 and once in the 4x100 relay.

Devers is considered to be the best sprinter-hurdler combo of all-time.

She has competed in the 110 hurdles and the 100 sprint in past Olympic Games.

Devers has been unable to capture a medal in the hurdles thus far and will be looking to capture her first this year. Although never winning, Devers has come close to the feat in the past. In 1996, she came in fourth in Atlanta. In the 2000 Sydney games, she pulled up in the semifinals and was unable to compete for a medal.

Local favorite **Stacy Dragila** will be providing the thrills in the field portion of the trials in the pole vault event.

The Placer high school graduate won the gold medal in the last Olympics and is a two-time world champion in the event.

Dragila held the world record until last year when it was



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Auburn native Stacy Dragila reclaimed the world record in the vault with a mark of 15 feet, 10 inches.

beaten by Russia's Yelena Isinbayeva.

In this year's Golden Spike 2004 IAAF Grand Prix she reclaimed her record with a vault of 15-10.

That performance put to rest any notions that there might be lingering effects from an injury plagued 2002 season.

Others that could be making a splash this year are distance runner **Deena Kastor** and triple-jumper **Yuliana Perez**.

Kastor is the highest ranked American in the 5000 and 10,000 distances. She was twelfth at the 2003 world outdoor championships at the 10,000 distance, but remains the American's best hope at a distance medal.

Yuliana Perez stands to be one of the more intriguing stories of the year. Perez, born in Tucson, was moved to Cuba after her mother was shot and killed to live with her grandmother.

After refusing to give up her United States citizenship, Perez was kicked off the Cuban national team and therefore not able to compete in Sydney.

Perez came to America where chance put her in front of a Pima Community College. Perez happened to board the wrong bus when coming home from her waitress job. When the bus driver saw that she appeared to be lost, they struck up a conversation.

The driver of the bus contacted his friend and the community colleges sprint coach to tell him about Perez. She began to train and has since won the USA outdoor championship in back-to-back years.

The team will look to bring home more medals this year when they head to Athens.

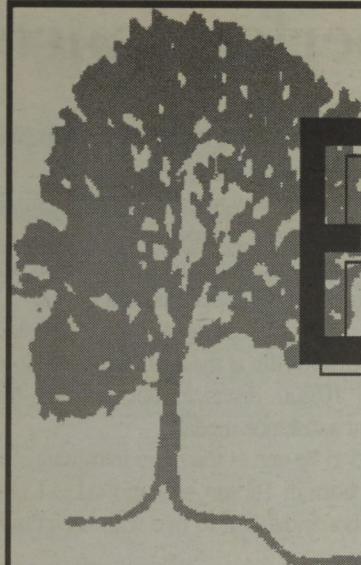
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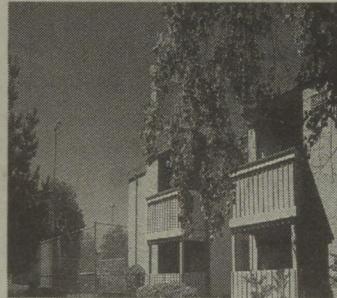
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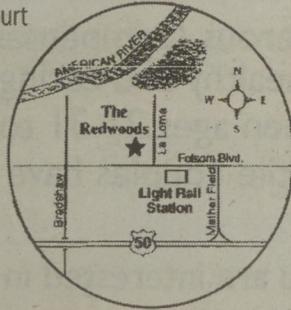
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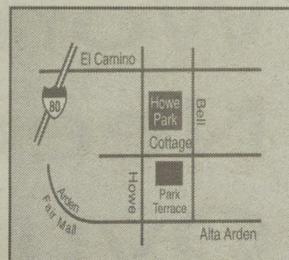
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Men: It's a family affair for Harrisons in 400 meter race

Continued from A15

In his very first Olympic Trials in 1996, he set a personal record in the 400m in each round he competed, posting times of 44.93, 44.66, 44.43 and 44.09 respectively on his way to a third place overall finish in the trials and a fourth place finish in the Atlanta Olympics.

In his spare time Harrison owns and operates an independent record label, Arrowhead Entertainment, which focuses on hit hip-hop and rock music.

One of the most exciting young athletes on the team, 25 year-old **Angelo Taylor** will compete to defend his 400m hurdle gold medal from the Sydney Olympics and his first place overall in the 2000 US Trials in the same event. Taylor was also a member of the 4x400m relay team that won gold in Sydney in 2000 as well.

An Albany Ga. native, Taylor competed in college at Georgia Tech from 1996-99 and won the ACC 400 hurdles in 1998 with a time of 49.18s.

A 21-year old from Ann Arbor, Mich. is the US' next big thing in the 1500.

Alan Webb already holds the American records for the indoor mile, out-

door mile and 1500 before his 22nd birthday.

All of these events were set in motion when Webb, then a sophomore at South Lakes High School in Reston, Va. broke **Jim Ryun's** high school mile record with a time of 4:06.94.

Since that day in 1999, Webb has amassed an impressive distance running career including setting prep records for the indoor mile, outdoor mile and outdoor 1500.

The odds-on favorite for the gold in the decathlon in Athens is none other than **Tom Pappas**, an American with Greek roots and according to his bio, a large Greek fan base. Pappas won the 2003 World Outdoor championship in the decathlon with a score of 8750 and set a personal record in the event at the US Outdoor championships in 2003 with 8784.

Pappas also won the US Trials in the decathlon in 2000 only to finish fifth at the Sydney games.

John Capel, a sprinter from Brooksville, Ga. will look to erase a disappointing trip to Sydney in 2000 which saw him falter out of the blocks and finish

"I was the worst 8th-grade shot putter in our group, but I stuck with it, and it paid off."

– Shot putter **Adam Nelson**

eighth in the 200 after winning the US Trials with a time of 19.85s.

The time of 19.85 stands as a personal record for Capel, who took two years off from track after 2000 to play football for the University of Florida in 2001 and 2002.

Since the difficult defeat in Sydney, Capel rebounded to win the gold at the world championships in 2003 in the 200 and ran the lead leg of 2003 world gold medal winning 4x100 relay team.

Adam Nelson will put the shot again for the United States in 2004, hoping to improve upon his silver medal performance in Sydney in 2000.

Yet another athlete from Ga., Nelson won the 2000 US Trials on his final throw with a personal record of 72-7.

Nelson had a successful collegiate career in the Ivy League at Dartmouth

University where he won the NCAA championship in Shot Put with a then personal record of 64'4.5".

Originally a football player, Nelson was asked in the eighth grade to come out for the field team as a shot putter and initially was not very successful.

"I was the worst 8th-grade shot putter in our group, but I stuck with it, and it paid off," said Nelson on usatf.org.

The defending gold medallist in pole vault from Sydney in 2000, the United States' **Nick Hysong** is back and will look to defend his title in Athens.

Hysong became the first American to win gold in the pole vault in the Olympics since Bob Seagren in 1968.

Finishing second in the US Trials in 2000, Hysong vaulted a 19'4.25" a personal record to win the gold medal.

Joining Hysong will be **Jeff Hartwig**, the American record holder in the pole vault with a personal record height of 19'9.25".

The World Champion in pole vault in 1998, 1999, 2001 and 2003, Hartwig at 36 will provide veteran leadership to a US team mixed with both young and seasoned talent.

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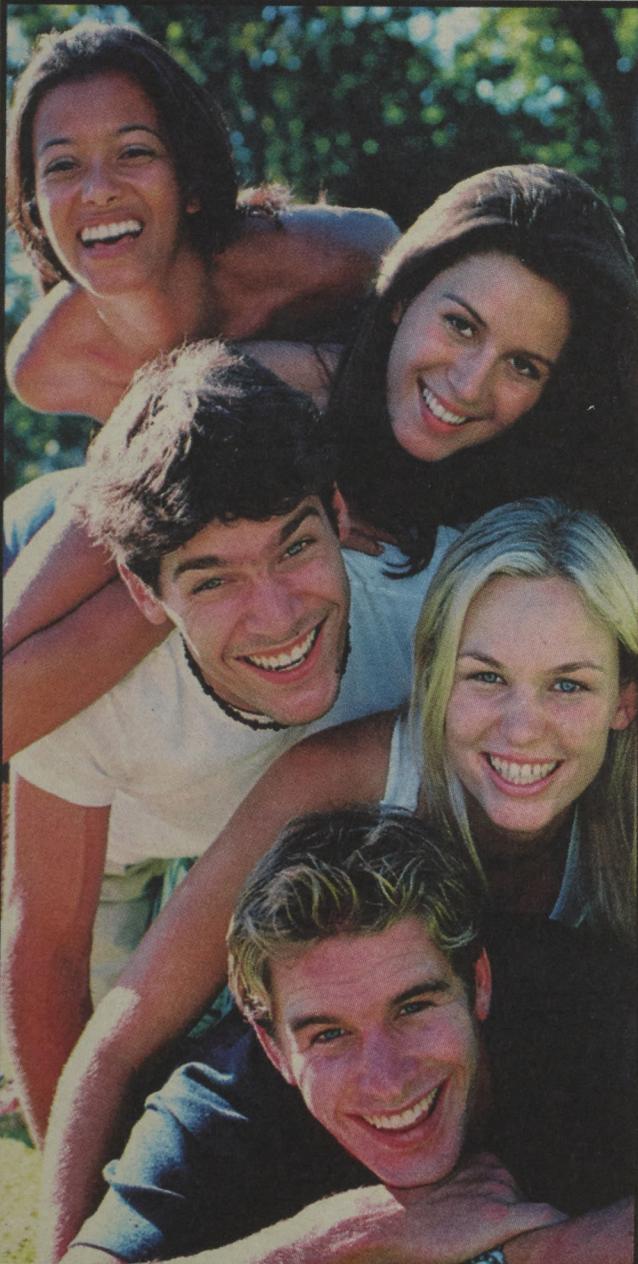
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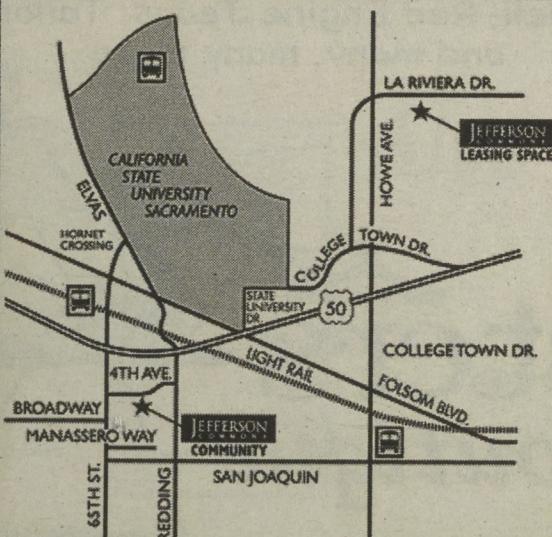
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